

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 231840Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2836

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3886

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PARM, ASEC, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

REFS: A) STATE 172995; B) USNATO 3849

1. ON JULY 23, 14 NATO AMBASSADORS/CHARGES (MINUS PORTUGAL) AGAIN MET PRIVATELY WITH ASYG PANSAL AND KEY MEMBERS OF THE IS AND IMS TO DISCUSS WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE ADVISABLE REGARDING PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. PANSAL OPENED DISCUSSION BY DISTRIBUTING AN INFORMAL IS/IMS PAPER (TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS) SETTING FORTH SOME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MIGHT OBTAIN IN THE EVENT OF A DECISION TO FURTHER RESTRICT CIRCULATION TO PORTUGAL OF NATO INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

2. THE 14 ALLIES READILY REACHED CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF STEPS OUTLINED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE IS/IMS PAPER WITH SOME AMENDMENTS AND REFINEMENTS SO THAT THE DECISION REACHED CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE "SUMMER LULL" IN NATO BUSINESS BY DELAYING DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE NATO COMMUNITY OF CERTAIN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS, AND BY DENYING TO THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION ON AN AD HOC BASIS THOSE DOCUMENTS WHICH CANNOT BE DELAYED.

B. NOT TO INFORM THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION -- NOT EVEN THE SECRET

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PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR -- OF THE DECISION TAKEN IN A.

C. WHEN THE DECREASED FLOW OF NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IS NOTED AND COMMENTED UPON BY PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS, THE 14 ALLIES WILL

RECONVENE TO DISCUSS WHAT RESPONSE THE SYG SHOULD MAKE TO PORTUGUESE PERMREP.

D. IN ANY CASE THIS AGREED PROCEDURE IS FOR THE SHORT-TERM, I.E. FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, AND THE 14 ALLIES WILL RECONVENE AS SOON AS THERE ARE INTERVENING CIRCUMSTANCES OR IN ANY CASE ON OR SHORTLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 1.

3. THE FOLLOWING OPINIONS WERE WIDELY SHARED BY PERMREPS AND WHERE APPLICABLE WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE IS AND IMS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE AGREEMENT:

-- IN THE PRESENT VOLATILE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE KEYNOTES FOR ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO PROTECT NATO'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION SHOULD BE PRAGMATISM, FLEXIBILITY RESTRAINT AND EASY REVERSIBILITY. MINIMUM NOTICEABILITY IS ALSO DESIRABLE, BUT ALLIES HAVE NO ILLUSIONS BUT THAT THE DECREASED FLOW OF INFORMATION WILL SOON BE APPARENT TO THE PORTUGUESE.

-- DURING THIS BRIEF PERIOD, WHEN THERE IS A CLOSE DECISION BETWEEN DELAYING A DOCUMENT AND THUS AFFECTING THE FLOW OF ALLIANCE WORKLOAD OR DENYING PORTUGAL DISTRIBUTION OF NATO CONFIDENTIAL OR NATO SECRET MATERIAL, THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON NON-DISCRIMINATION, LETTING THE PACE OF WORK SUFFER IF NECESSARY.

-- ALLIES ASSUME THAT CAPITALS ALREADY HAVE EXERCISED DISCRETION IN INPUT OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION INTO THE NATO COMMUNITY AND ITS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, AND THEY EXPECT THIS DISCRETION TO CONTINUE.

4. COMMENT: THIS INTERIM DECISION, WHICH IS IN ACCORD WITH DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS (REF A), IS PROBABLY THE BEST THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT IN THE PRESENT UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WERE PLEASED TO SEE THAT OUR ALLIES:

-- HAVE FEW ILLUSIONS ABOUT PCP ACCESS TO NATO SECRETS,

SECRET

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-- ARE SENSITIVE TO DANGERS INHERENT IN DEFINITIVE STEPS TO PROTECT ALLIANCE SECURITY, AND

-- ARE FLEXIBLE AND CAPABLE OF IMPROVISATION.

WE WILL FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY AND REPORT ON SPECIFIC CASES OF DENIALS OF PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS WHEN THEY OCCUR.

6. BEGIN TEXT OF INFORMAL IS/IMS PAPER:

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS BY PORTUGAL

FOR SOME TIME PORTUGAL HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS IN THE ATOMAL AND COSMIC TOP SECRET CATEGORIES AND ALL DOCUMENTS, OF WHATEVER CLASSIFICATION, CONNECTED WITH THE NPG.

2. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE MAY BE REASON ON SECURITY GROUNDS, AND DESPITE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, TO RESTRICT THE CIRCULATION TO PORTUGAL OF DOCUMENTS IN OTHER CATEGORIES. THIS CAN BE DONE IN THREE WAYS:

(A) BY CLASSIFICATION. THEORETICALLY IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO UPGRADE ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED SENSITIVE INTO THE CTS CATEGORY, THEREBY AUTOMATICALLY DENYING THEM TO PORTUGAL; BUT THIS SOLUTION IS TOO CUMBERSOME TO CONTEMPLATE. ALTERNATIVELY SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS NOW CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL COULD BE UPGRADED TO SECRET AND THE DENIAL TO THE PORTUGUESE EXTENDED DOWNWARDS TO SECRET. THERE WOULD BE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION. MOREOVER IT WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION AND MAKE PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2837

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 3886

EXDIS

(B) BY SUBJECT. THERE ARE SOME SUBJECTS FROM WHICH IT MIGHT BE AS WELL TO EXCLUDE THE PORTUGUESE ENTIRELY UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. (AN ILLUSTRATIVE, BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST IS ATTACHED.) BUT THERE ARE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING SUCH A SYSTEM FOOLPROOF, AND IT WOULD AGAIN RAISE THE PROBLEM OF PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES.

(C) BY COMMITTEE. NOT EVERYTHING DISCUSSED IN THE DPC, MILITARY COMMITTEE, EWG, DRC, COEC, CNADS, ETC. IS SENSITIVE. BUT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION IS. MOREOVER THE CUMULATIVE OFFSET OF INFORMATION CIRCULATED TO THESE COMMITTEES WOULD ENABLE A DETAILED AND ACCURATE PICTURE OF NATO FORCE CAPABILITIES TO BE BUILT UP OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. WHILE THE PORTUGUESE CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY OR PARTIALLY IN THEIR WORK THERE ARE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES

(OUTLINED ABOVE) IN
MAKING A SELECTIVE DISTRIBUTION. BUT TO CUT THEM OFF FROM THE
CIRCULATION OF ALL (OR ALL CLASSIFIED) DOCUMENTS WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY
TO EXCLUDE THEM FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO ENTIRELY.

3. A MORE PRAGMATIC WAY OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE 'SUMMER LULL' TO DELAY COMPLETELY
DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS AND TO
DENY TO THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION ON AN AD HOC BASIS THOSE DOCUMENTS
WHICH CANNOT BE DELAYED. HOWEVER, THIS TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT COULD
NOT BE CONTINUED BEYOND THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AND COULD NOT
BE GUARANTEED COMPLETELY WATERTIGHT. MOREOVER, IT WOULD MOST
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PROBABLY BECOME APPARENT TO THE PORTUGUESE BOTH IN BRUSSELS AND
LISBON, SO THAT IF THIS SOLUTION IS ADOPTED, AND INFORMAL WORD
SHOULD BE SAID AT LEAST TO THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR. A MORE
PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL NEED TO BE FOUND BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST
AND INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER.

SENSITIVE SUBJECTS - ILLUSTRATIVE LIST

DPG REPLIES AND ALL RELATED DEFENCE REVIEW MATERIAL

SACEUR'S FLEXIBILITY STUDY

SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

SALT

MBFR

INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL

COUNCIL EXERCISES

NATO ALERT SYSTEM

STRATEGIC AIRLIFT

AWAGS

ELECTRONIC WARFARE

I.F.F.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

END TEXT

BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO03886
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507102/abbrzldp.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) STATE 172995; B) USNATO 3849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGAL AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PARM, ASEC, PO
To: STATE INFO LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006